chair. Dr. Lee even went so far as to move a vote of censure, but this was not seconded.

At the dinner afterwards, the intensest dullness reigned,—there seemed to be a wet blanket over all, and men who are often eloquent, simply stammered out a few common-places. With a sincere desire to see the Society of Antiquaries renew its youth, and the greatest respect for those connected with its management, we earnestly invite the new council to apply themselves vigorously to the task of improvement.

WINDOW FROM ASH CHURCH, IN KENT.

The parish church of Ash is situated on the main road from Canterbury to Sandwich, and is dedicated to St. Nicholas. It contains several ancient and interesting monuments of good design and workmanship, and some brasses.

The window represented by our engraving is at the east end of the north aisle of the church. It is 15 feet 6 inches high, and 10 feet 5 inches wide, and consists of four lights, each 2 feet 2 inches wide. Fig. B is the plan of the window, and fig. A gives the section of the reveal, and label or hood-moulding, at large.

The window has at first sight a perpendicular character, but an examination shews that it is a good though singular specimen of decorated work, and belongs to the 14th century.

The roll-moulding forming the label is almost peculiar to the decorative style.

Mr. Caveler, by whom the window was measured and drawn, remarks that it is now in a very ruinous condition, and that much injury has been done elsewhere in the church by injudicious repairers.

NOTES ON COMPETITIONS.

CLIFTON UNION WORKHOUSE.

Sir,—The letter from your correspondent, "A Guardian," respecting the affair in which he took part, whereby at least 1,000*l.* have been dishonestly extracted from the pockets of those who can ill afford to lose it, necessarily calls for some remarks, and although he may be personally a most estimable man in his vocation as a maltster, I submit that the board must be sadly in want of "A Guardian," to leave its defence in such hands. In the first place, it is desirable to state that the union in question, although named after a rich parish, includes within its bounds many of the out-parishes of the adjoining city, which are inhabited by multitudes of the lowest orders, pitmen, colliers, &c., the board is consequently composed of a heterogeneous mixture of gentlemen who seldom attend because they are outvoted, and a phalanx of men, a grade above their constituents in education, who carry all things before them by adopting the old motto of "union is strength."

The board consists of forty-eight guardians; but for the purpose of the sham competition, a committee, a select seven, were appointed, three or four of whom, from their station in life, were, as Mr. Allom says, above the suspicion of doing *any* thing; but there were also amongst them three friends of the successful competitor, to whom the stronger remark of Mr. Allom will apply, of dropping in the mixture one or two shrewd, clever, but not *over*-scrupulous fellows," &c. &c.

As to the successful design, it was well known in the neighbourhood that it had been concocting, making, and remaking, in the office of the owner, for very many months, during which time it was being constantly seen by individual members of the board, by whose advice and at whose suggestions innumerable alterations were made in it (my informant told me he was present when three of them were there giving advice); and indeed to such a gross extent was this partiality for their bantling carried, that it was taken to a board-meeting, and an attempt was made to get it chosen by the guardians *a few* days only before the advertisement appeared in the newspaper for designs; this trick was for the time prevented by the clause in the Poor Law Act, which requires all things to be publicly advertised *for*. So *much* for the probability of a fair selection. No pretension is made as to forming an opinion on the cost or merits of the successful design; but a professional man who has seen it has stated that it could not be built for less than 30 per cent. above the estimated cost; and as to its merits, the building, *if* not a disgrace, will not be a credit to the guardians.

Having occupied so much of your valuable space, I will briefly allude to the sarcasms of Mr. Allom on the local architects, by agreeing with a "Guardian," that he, at all events, ought to be thankful, as the second premium was awarded to him by the three or four gentlemen above suspicion, on account of the artistical and picturesque effect given to his elevation (a talent for doing which is peculiar to architectural draughtsmen), and not for any merit in his plans, as a "Guardian" says they were reported to be deficient in the three great requisites of "*space, classification*, and *inspection*." If this is a fact, premium the second was unfairly given, and the architect who assisted in the selection must have toadied his betters, instead of expressing an opinion contrary to his personal interests.

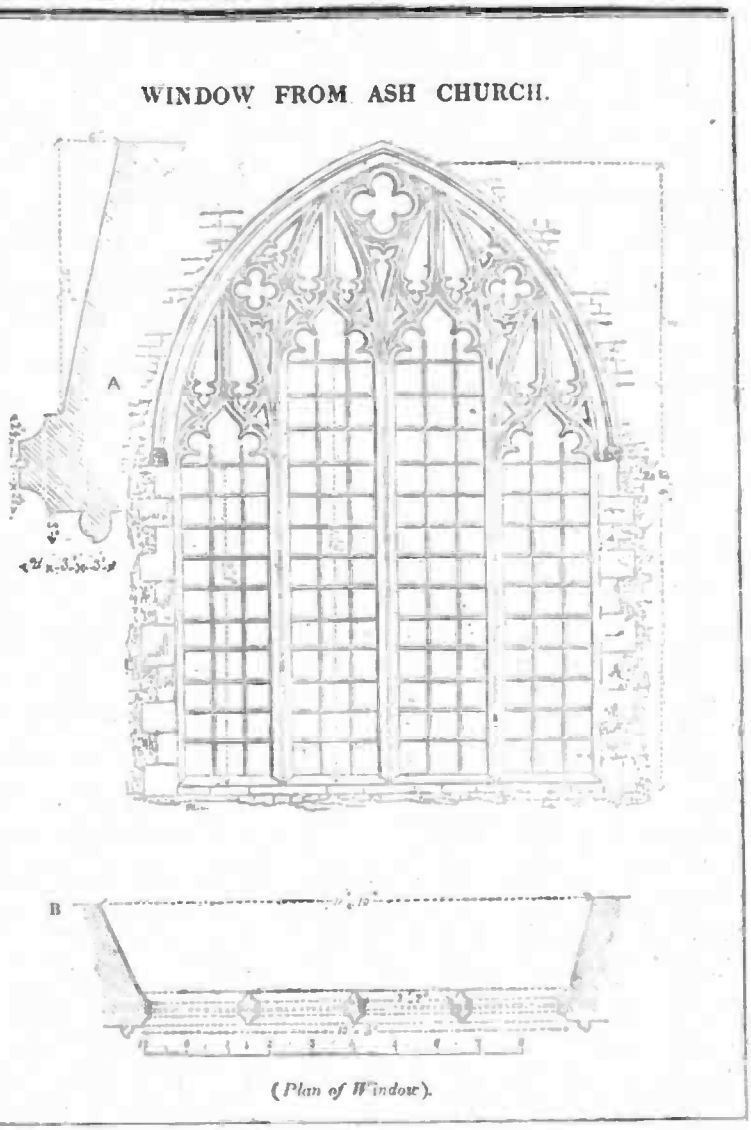
With respect to the owner of the successful design, I will simply say that he lived, until within the last year, in the midst of the guardians, inhabiting the out parishes above alluded to, and with whom he was connected, encouraged, or employed, and that he is not an architect by education or by professional practice.

After entering so fully into the facts of this gross, but well-bolstered up job, I beg to add that if any man should again spend his money in seeking for public employment in public competition, he will deserve the unjust treatment which he is sure to get.

I am, Sir, &c.,

A Subscriber from No. I.

April 16, 1845.



(*Plan of Window*).

CLIFTON UNION.

Sir,—My letter, which you published respecting the late competition for the Clifton Union, has, I perceive, called forth a reply from one of the guardians, in which the writer admits the report of the architect consulted to be most favourable to my plan, but states that I had omitted to name two important features expressed in the opinion (viz.), a deficiency of space, at a greater cost than that of the resident and successful competitor.

These are, indeed, most important features, and, if founded in fact, quite sufficient to justify these worthy gentlemen in congratulating themselves on the actual possession of an architect capable of astonishing us poor Londoners; he might have added, that I was in attendance to prove the correctness of my estimate had a hint been thrown out that it was doubted; and I *did* prove, in the presence of the board, that in the dormitories alone no less a space than 6,250 square feet was omitted in their calculations; shewing, beyond dispute, that every class had, according to their own data, the space required.

But it is not to speak of myself, or of my deep-laid schemes for giving the paupers the best possible ventilation at the least possible cost, that I now trouble you with this communication; it is for the purpose of making the numerous competitors conscious of the measure of justice they have had from this tribunal,—the high consideration in which they have been held as scientific men pursuing and practising the most useful and noble of the arts,—the courtesy which has been extended to them as gentlemen confiding in the honour of those into whose hands they intrusted their property,—the thanks voted (and publicly advertized) to those professional gentlemen who have thus nobly spent their thousand pounds in the

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